

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1- 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Klopp et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,148,613). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to recite "...directing exhaust to flow in upstream and downstream directions to pass more than once through the predefined length through at least one of the at least one catalyst brick." In the converter of Klopp et al., exhaust flows from an inlet (16) through a container (12) to an outlet (18) (FIG. 1). Although exhaust gases pass through monoliths (70, 72, 74) in alternating directions, exhaust flow is not directed to flow in an upstream direction toward the inlet (16).

Applicant submits that claim 1 as amended should be allowed. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1. Applicant submits that claims 2-8, when considered together with the recitations of amended claim 1, also should be allowed.

Additionally, referring to claims 7 and 8, Klopp et al. do not disclose monoliths or catalytic converters connected in parallel. Claims 7 and 8 therefore should be allowed.

Independent claim 9 is amended to recite "...effecting a transfer, to a central core of said catalyst surface area and of said converter, of heat remaining in the exhaust after being exposed to said central core." Klopp et al. do not teach the recitations of

amended claim 9. Applicant submits that claim 9, and claims 10-13 dependent on claim 9, should be allowed.

Independent claim 14 is amended to recite "...at least one directing element that directs exhaust from the motor in upstream and downstream directions to pass more than once through the predefined length through at least one of said at least one catalyst brick." As previously discussed with reference to claim 1, exhaust flow is not directed to flow in an upstream direction toward the inlet (16) of the converter of Klopp et al. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 14, and claims 15-24 dependent on claim 14, should be allowed.

Additionally, with reference to claims 21 and 22, Klopp et al. describe a bowl (97) and monoliths (92) surrounded by insulation (FIG. 7b; col. 7, lines 23-26). Thus Klopp et al. do not disclose a bowl that directs the exhaust to flow alongside a catalyst brick, as recited in claim 21, nor do Klopp et al. disclose a bowl that has a door that opens or closes in response to a pressure of the exhaust, as recited in claim 22.

With reference to claim 24, Klopp et al. do not disclose a plurality of converters connected in parallel. Accordingly, claim 24 should be allowed.

Independent claim 25 is amended to recite "...at least one directing element that effects a transfer, to a central core of said catalyst surface area and of said converter, of heat remaining in the exhaust after being exposed to said central core." Klopp et al. do not teach the recitations of amended claim 25. Applicant submits that claim 25, and claims 26-34 dependent on claim 25, should be allowed.

Additionally, with reference to claims 32 and 33, Klopp et al. describe a bowl (97) and monoliths (92) surrounded by insulation (FIG. 7b; col. 7, lines 23-26). Thus

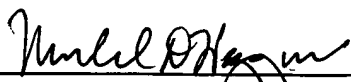
Klopp et al. do not disclose a bowl that directs the exhaust to flow alongside a catalyst brick, as recited in claim 32, nor do Klopp et al. disclose a bowl that has a door that opens or closes in response to a pressure of the exhaust, as recited in claim 33.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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